

TWENTY-FIRST YEAR

EARLINGTON, HOPKINS COUNTY, KY., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1910

No. 48

BITUMINOUS
COAL DUST

A Deadly Explosive More Dangerous Than Firedamp

SAYS GEO. S. RICE, CHIEF ENGINEER BUREAU OF MINES.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 12.—That the dust of bituminous coal is an explosive more insidious, threatening and deadly to the miner than firedamp, is the assertion of Geo. S. Rice, chief mining engineer of the Bureau of Mines. This is contrary to what has been the general belief, nevertheless it has been proved beyond doubt by the experiments of the last two years at the Pittsburgh Testing Station of the United States Geological Survey, which is now a part of Bureau of Mines. While many mine operators and miners have believed that coal dust would ignite from an explosion of firedamp in a mine, nearly all of them contended that the dust in a mine, free from gas, could not explode. Consequently, in many mines where no firedamp could be detected, miners have paid little attention to the accumulation of dust from the cutting of the coal, and it is in these mines, Mr. Rice declares, some of the great disasters have taken place.

In a bulletin which has just been issued by the Bureau, Mr. Rice refers especially to the appalling series of great, wide-sweeping disasters that occurred in the United States in 1907, as evidence of the terrible havoc wrought by dust explosions. On January 23, at the Primero mine, Colorado, there were twenty-four deaths; on January 29, at the Stuart mine, near Fayetteville, W. Va., ninety deaths; on February 4, at the Thomas mine, Thomas, W. Va., twenty-five deaths; on December 1, at the Naomi mine, Pennsylvania, thirty-five deaths; on December 6, at the Monongah mine, West Virginia, occurred the greatest disaster in the history of coal mining in the United States, 358 lives having been lost; on December 16, at the Yolande mine, Ala., fifty-six men were killed; and on December 19, at the Darr mine, 230 men were killed. In this black month of December alone, says Mr. Rice, 648 men were sacrificed, chiefly from the effects of coal dust, which if not the initial cause, in all cases was the agency carrying death.

It was after these explosions that the Federal government took up an inquiry into the causes of the disasters and established the testing station at Pittsburgh. The very first work was to prove to the mine operators and miners that coal dust alone would explode. The dust was placed in a cylinder 100 feet long and six feet in diameter, with a cannon imbedded in one end. This cannon was filled with black powder and discharged by electricity into the coal dust. In practically every instance, there was a terrific explosion, even more violent than that caused by firedamp. Each succeeding experiment went further to prove that coal dust is the real great danger of the mines. Firedamp, according to Mr. Rice, carries its own warning. Whenever gas is present in a mine in dangerous quantities, a blue flame rises from the safety lamp to notify the miner, but coal dust, though visible, does not attract attention unless present in large quantities. Firedamp is generally found in certain parts of the mine, and except in notable and very exceptional cases is controllable by means of the ventilating currents. If by mischance a body of firedamp is ignited in a mine, the force of the explosion is terrific, but the effect is localized unless dry coal dust is present, or unless (as rarely happens) an explosive mixture of air and gas extends through large areas of the mine. In a mine that is dry, dust accumulates everywhere, and the blast from the ignition and combustion of the bituminous dust may traverse miles of rooms and entries and even wreck structures at the entrance of the mine.

One of the unaccountable phases of the coal dust problem has been the disinclination of operators and miners to believe that the dust would explode without the presence of gas. The United States was not alone in this, for the French engineers refused to believe in this until the great disaster occurred at Courrières in 1906, in which 1,000 men lost their lives. Since that terrible catastrophe, a testing station has been established in France, and now the French engineers are fully convinced of the dangers of coal dust.

Now since it is generally accepted that bituminous coal dust is explosive, the Federal investigators have been looking for the remedy. Various experiments, in sprinkling the roadways of the mines, in saturating the air entering the mine with steam so as to produce a humid effect, in placing zones of stone dust in the mines, have all been tried with various success. A number of these experiments are described by Mr. Rice in the bulletin. Interesting chapters on different phases of the work have been contributed by such well known men as J. C. W. Frazer, Axel Larsen, Frank Hass and Carl Scholz. The Bulletin, which is No. 425, can be had by addressing the Director of the Bureau of Mines, Washington, D. C.

Society Happenings

An enjoyable dance was given by the young men of the town in Webb Bros. hall Wednesday night.

Egbert's string band gave a musical of Miss Artie Favors on Wilson street Tuesday evening. An enjoyable time was had by all. Refreshments were served and all left, voting the occasion a delightful one.

Miss Nellie Crowder gave a musicale at her residence on Wilson street Monday evening. A number of friends attended and all pronounced her a charming hostess. Egbert's string band furnished beautiful music. Delicious refreshments were served.

Bitten by a Mad Dog.

The little three year old son of Mr. Ed Wright, of Henderson, was bitten by a rabid dog in Henderson Monday. The owner of the mad stone there being away from the city and having the stone with him, Mr. Wright brought his little boy to Earlinton Wednesday night to Mr. Tom Hodge's to have the mad stone applied. The stone stuck to the wound thirty-five minutes.

For Sale Cheap

One square Piano. Call at Bee office for particulars. This is a bargain.

Madisonville Notes

Leo Rentress, of Central City, was in the city Sunday.

R. I. Sutherland, of the Earlinton country, was here Tuesday.

Floyd Franklin, of Dawson, was here Wednesday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Scott, of the Dulin store, are visiting in Louisville.

Mrs. Joe Mothershead, of Providence, was here this week visiting relatives.

Harrison Givens leaves shortly for Nashville to attend Vanderbilt University.

Harrison Givens, who has been visiting in Bowling Green returned home Wednesday.

Ernest Dunning and family, of Greenville, were in the city Tuesday visiting friends.

Wm. Osburn who has been spending a few days in Louisville returned home Wednesday.

Harry Tallafiero, of this city, leaves Tuesday for Sewanee, Tenn., where he will attend school.

Mrs. W. J. Burton and daughter, Mrs. Claud Sutherland, of this city, are visiting friends in Earlinton.

Jas. D. Sory and sister, Miss Meatbeth, returned Wednesday night from a visit to friends in Bowling Green.

Ben Howard and Turner Ruby were in Earlinton Wednesday fishing in Loch Mary. It is reported they had good luck.

Mrs. Burbham Taylor, who has been traveling with her husband in Indiana several weeks, is visiting relatives here a few days.

Misses Eleanor Dee Gordon and Anna McIntire Cox will leave in a few days for Nashville, where they will attend Belmont College.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Wooten and Mayor Gatlin, who have been attending the Bankers' Association in Louisville, have returned home.

Work on the building of the Star Planing Mill is progressing nicely and the company expect to be able to move in and start business in a short time.

The city council have passed ordinances to concrete several streets in the city. This will be a great benefit to some and doubtless increase the value of the property along these streets.

Mrs. L. M. Brown and daughters, Eunice and Rosalee, left Thursday morning for Bartow, Florida, where they will live in the future. The people of Madisonville regret to lose this excellent family.

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THOS. YOUNG, SR., GOES HOME

One of the Pioneer Miners of the St. Bernard Mining Co., Who Came Here in 1870.

One by one the old miners are going home. Thos. Young, Sr., crossed over the eternal divide at his home in this city Monday afternoon about four o'clock. He had been ill for some time with stomach trouble and the end was not unexpected. Mr. Young was one of our oldest citizens and a man who numbered his friends by his acquaintances.

He was born in Durham, England, sixty-nine years ago and came to the United States in 1869. He lived in Pennsylvania for one year, coming to this city in 1870, where he had since resided.

Thos. Longstaff, Sr., of Providence, who was the most intimate friend of Mr. Young, came to the United States with him from Durham and he and the deceased left Pennsylvania for Earlinton at the same time.

Mr. Young had been a member of the English Episcopal church since early youth. He was also a member of Hopkins Lodge, No. 161, A. O. U. W., of this city. He is survived by four children, Mrs. David Smith, of near the city, Mrs. Jennie Smith and Mrs. Wm. Donnelly, daughters; and Thos. Young, Jr., son, all of Earlinton. His wife died several years ago.

His remains were laid to rest in the Earlinton cemetery Tuesday afternoon under the auspices of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Card of Thanks.

We desire to extend our heartfelt thanks to neighbors and friends who so kindly assisted by the act of loving kindness and expressions of sympathy during the illness and death of our beloved brother Thos. Young.

MRS. MARGARET DONNALLY AND SISTERS.

Down in the Mines

Eddie Bottom had the misfortune to have a finger mashed in Hecla mine Monday. He is laying off, being unable to work.

W. H. Cole, boss driver at Arnold, had a finger cut off in sprangling a run of cars one day last week. Mr. Cole saw a mule in danger and endeavored to stop the run, but his hand slipped and the result was one finger was minus a joint. He will be laid off some time.

The Passing of Dupont.

Dupont was a big black Gordon setter, owned by M. B. Long, and one of the best bird dogs in the country. He was in the habit of taking long hunting trips, either alone or accompanied by a younger dog of Mr. Long's, and on his last trip met his death in a pitiful manner. From the position he was found in, he must have jumped over a split snag and in some manner hung his hind leg so it was impossible to remove it. The harder he struggled to free himself the more firmly the leg became wedged in the split. The ground around this snag was worn smooth by Dupont's desperate efforts to free himself and during the five or six hot days he was fastened in this place, he must have suffered untold agony from hunger and thirst. His two front feet and legs were eaten off half way up, either from hunger or misery, and the howls of this poor brute, during these days and nights of suffering, must have been pitiful indeed.

WE HAVE FOR YOUR INSPECTION

A number of pretty and varied patterns in German Silver Mesh Bags. Prices to suit any purse. We will take great pleasure in showing this selection and believe we can please you if you desire an article of this kind.

ST. BERNARD MINING COMPANY

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DRUG DEPARTMENT

EARLINGTON, KY.

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The New Drug Store

COMPLETE LINE OF
Drugs, Soaps, Perfumes and
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And Everything Found in a Complete Store

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THE MILLINERY FIRM
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Wish to announce their Fall Opening of Dress and Tailored Hats on

Friday and Saturday, September 16-17

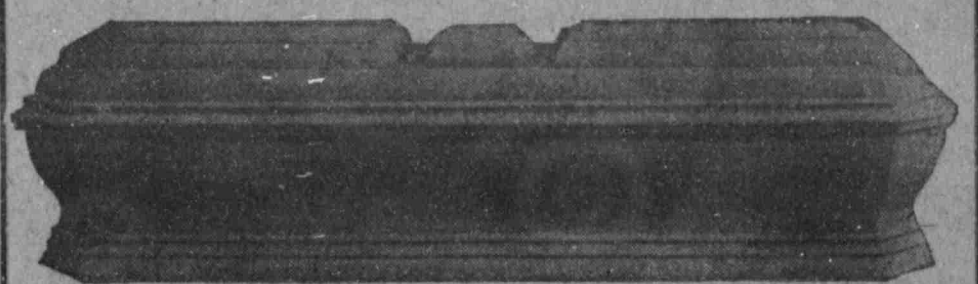
In the Madisonville Savings Bank Building
Mrs. C. E. O'Bryan's Old Stand : : :

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Funeral Directors and Licensed Embalmers

We are prepared to answer promptly all calls day or night
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Frank B. Rhodes, as Three Characters in "We, Us and Cupid," at Electric Theatre Thursday, Friday and Saturday Nights

Hopkinsville, Ky., Sept. 10, 1910.

Mgr. McGary:

Dear Sir—You can "boost" this act to the limit. They are artists and will please your refined audience. Great business here.
Yours respectfully,
A. B. COFFEY, Mgr. Vaudeville House.